CULTURE CRINGE

FREE

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MURFREESBORO'S PROVIDER OF THE WEIRD AND COOL SINCE 2012

FALL 2023

IT'S A NEW VERSION OF CULTURE CRINGE (and perhaps a new version of you)

EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF CULTURE CRINGE I TRULY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START!!! WELL FIRST OFF, SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL ME BY RUNNING A RED LIGHT (ACTUALLY, THEY "BLEW" THE RED LIGHT — MUCH WORSE THAN RUNNING!). SPOILER ALERT: I SURVIVED. THEN I HAD THE GENIUS IDEA OF DECIDING TO WATCH EVERY EPISODE OF THE BRADY BUNCH AND LET ME TELL YOU....THAT FIRST SEASON IS A DAMN CHALLENGE!! I DUNNO IF IT'S THE WRITING (EX: A WHOLE EPISODE ON JAN'S ALLERGIES) OR THE SHRILL, HARSH VOICES OF THE YOUNG BRADY KIDS. AS MUCH AS I WANT, I CAN'T SKIP TO SEASON THREE, THAT WOULD RESULT IN AN INSTANT DISQUALIFICATION. I'LL SEE IT THROUGH.

THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS CONCERNS THE CONCEPT IDEA I HAD ABOUT THE R.E.M. MARKER COMMEMORATING THEIR FIRST SHOW OF THEIR FIRST EVER TOUR - WHICH ACCORDING TO THE BAND'S RECORDS HAPPENED HERE IN MURFREESBORO! SO.....YES THAT WAS JUST A FUN IDEA THAT I PHOTO-SHOPPED, IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN. THEN THERE'S THE CONTROVERSY AROUND THE FACTS: DID THEY PLAY MURFREESBORO IN 1981?

THEY DEFINITELY DID IN 1982. IT GOT A LOTTA PEOPLE TALKING. NO WORD FROM THE BAND YET. YET.

THIS ISSUE IS USING VARIOUS FONTS IN ORDER TO THWART ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

This issue that you're holding in your hand is in fact, an experiment in fear. I've been making these for 12 years now but I have NEVER moved past the single sheet, folded method which involves cramming as much information as possible on one page. WELL HERE WE ARE. Since I constantly re-invent myself (a new version of me?), perhaps it's that I am skimming across timelines - dimensions - and picking up little bits and pieces that the other versions of me hold dear.....and incorporate them into my current form! I guess one of the forms of me that I transitioned into has a thing for TWO PAGE ZINES because suddenly I'm all about it. Not complaining!! In this issue I am beyond excited to have interviews with the following tastemakers: **SIGN LIBRA** - a musician from Latvia, **DEBBIE DAUGHTERY** - creator and program director at the radio station **BOSS RADIO 66**, **EDWIN LEE CANFIELD** - author of the new biography on **THE AMAZING CRISWELL**, and **Eric Pigors** - artist and creator of the **TOXICTOONS!!!** These are people that I think you need to know about if you already do not.

HOLD ON TO YOUR COSTUMES, IT'S TIME FOR.....

MYSTERY PHOTO NUMBER 46

THIS EDITION'S "MYSTERY PHOTO" IS A TOUGH ONE! THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? ALL YOU GOTTA TELL ME IS THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ON THIS VINTAGE PIC! FIRST: WHAT WELL KNOWN MAGAZINE WAS IT PUBLISHED IN? SECOND: NAME THE ARTIST, THEIR FIRST BORN CHILD, AND PLACE OF BIRTH. LASTLY: WHAT FUTURE BASEBALL HALL-OF-FAMER WAS BORN ON THE DAY THIS PHOTO WAS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED? HINT: HE HAS A FIRST AND LAST NAME. EMAIL YOUR RESPONSES TO: culturecringemedia@gmail.com

AS OF PRESS TIME, NO ONE HAD CORRECTLY GUESSED THE LAST MYSTERY PHOTO! THE CORRECT ANSWER IS - MY HALLOWEEN COSTUME FROM 1990!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

(THIS CONTEST IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY. ACTUAL CASH VALUE IS 1/500th OF A PENNY.)

GO AHEAD, GUESS!!!

GO AHEAD I BET YOU WON'T

THREE QUESTIONS WITH MUSICIAN SIGN LIBRA!!!

Sign Libra is the brainchild of Latvian producer and artist, Agata Melnikova. Her new album, Hidden Beauty, arrives in November via the label RVG, INTL. I was thrilled to get to ask her a few questions – HERE WE GO!!!

CC: You seem to be an incredibly artistic person - from your music to the visuals of your videos and beyond! Were you raised in an encouraging artistic environment, or is your talent something that you sought out and discovered completely on your own?

S/L: I was raised in a family of parents-jewellers who have corresponding art education,so creative atmosphere was always at home. Also in childhood I was going together with my older sister (who later would become a professional contemporary artist) to drawing classes. When I was studying at the music school and later at the music Academy, I loved to hang out in a company of my sister's friends-artists. Back then Instagram also played a role for my expanding visual universe – there I discovered many international contemporary artists and other inspirational things. Worth to mention here also nature and science museum visits! This all together shaped somehow my own artistic point of view.

CC: I have read that you have directed your own videos - which have amazing surrealist imagery! Do you see visuals in your mind while crafting your compositions? Do visuals and sound always go hand in hand with your musical creations or do the visuals arrive after the song is completed?

S/L: It works in both ways, but mostly of the times the clear visual side comes after the song is finished. When I write music material, I'm having blurry visions or just separate visual episodes for a specific parts of a song. Sometimes I understand the general idea and vibes, but then comes the question – how to produce it, because my imagination seeks something a bit crazy or what is hard to get in real life. And, in some questions my video team, which has the knowledge in a computer world, help me in this matter.

CC: Your new album, Hidden Beauty, arrives in November via the label RVNG Intl. This will be your first album in over three years. How has your musical journey changed since the release of Sea To Sea in 2020? Do you still create your music in the same manner?

S/L: I've began to work on Hidden Beauty in 2019 when Sea to Sea was about to release. In a new album I am continuing to discover for myself VST plug-ins, but in its sounding Hidden Beauty is more chamber-like with less reverberation effects as it was on the previous album. I wanted to make Hidden Beauty as it would sounds like somewhere in between of my first EP Closer to the Equator and Sea to Sea, but with a fresh musical stylistic breath and new compositional approaches.

Thanks so much, Agata! I originally heard about the music of SIGN LIBRA while browsing videos on the NIGHT FLIGHT app. They had a spotlight on her current videos, and I was hooked. Be sure to check out the music!!!

SIGN LIBRA

GAS UP THE DRAG-ULA, LETS GO FOR A RIDE AND LISTEN TO

BOSS RADIO 66!!!

NOT ONLY IS BOSS RADIO 66 THE COOLEST STATION ON TUNEIN RADIO, IT'S THE COOLEST STATION IN EXISTENCE - AND THAT'S A FACT, JACK.

CHECK IT OUT: I RECENTLY GOT TO INTERVIEW THE FOUNDER AND PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR, DEBBIE DAUGHTRY. IT WAS A TOTAL THRILL

IN A FAR OUT WAY - LISTEN UP: I'LL LET YOU JUDGE FOR YOURSELF !!!!!

PRO TIP: TELL YER STREAMING DEVICE TO PLAY BOSS RADIO 66 WHILE READING

CC: IT'S RARE WHEN I FEEL AN ACTUAL HUMAN CONNECTION WHENEVER I LISTEN TO 24/7 STREAMING RADIO STATIONS. BOSS RADIO 66 DEFINITELY HAS THAT! I LOVE FLOW OF THE SONGS, THE JINGLES, THE MOVIE TRAILERS THAT ARE THROWN IN, AND THE DJ SETS. SPEAKING OF DJS, HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE PART OF THE BOSS RADIO 66 CREW? IS THE EVERYDAY PROGRAMMING A COLLECTIVE EFFORT?

DEBBIE: I'M THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR SO MOST EVERYTHING YOU HEAR ON THE STREAM IS FROM MY RECORD COLLECTION. I'VE ALSO BEEN COLLECTING JINGLES AND COMMERCIALS FROM OLD AIRCHECKS, SINCE I LEARNED HOW TO RECORD AND EDIT AUDIO. THE RECORDS ARE MOSTLY MINE, BUT SOME OF THEM I INHERITED FROM MY FATHER'S RECORD COLLECTION. AND SOME ARE FROM A COLLECTION THAT TOM HANKS BOUGHT AND HAD DIGITIZED. HE SENDS THEM TO ME VIA A HARD DRIVE. RIGHT NOW, BOSS RADIO 66 IS ACCEPTING GUEST DJ SETS FOR OUR SUNDAY SHOW, BOSS DJ ROULETTE. WE'RE HOPING TO ADD MORE LIVE SHOWS. KOGAR THE SWINGING APE IS LAUNCHING A NEW WEEKLY SHOW ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 7 AT 1 PM! KOGAR'S JUNGLE JUICE.

CC: I LOVE THE TOM HANKS GUEST DJ SETS. I'VE ALWAYS HEARD THAT HE WAS A HUGE FAN OF OLD ROCK 'N ROLL. DOES MR. HANKS HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL PLANNED FOR THE HALLOWEEN SEASON THIS YEAR? I MISSED HIS SPOOKY SET LAST YEAR, SO FINGERS CROSSED....

DEBBIE: YOU CAN HEAR ALL OF TOM'S PAST SHOWS ON TUNEIN! HE HAS HIS OWN CHANNEL, JUST SEARCH FOR IT. THE THEME THIS YEAR IS "BEWITCHED". YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES TO CATCH IT BECAUSE WE REPEAT IT SEVERAL TIMES AFTER THE LAUNCH.

CC: I FEEL LIKE BOSS RADIO IS DOING A GREAT DEED BY SHARING AMAZING OBSCURE OLDIES WITH A NEW AUDIENCE THAT GROWS DAILY. I FIND WHAT YOU DO VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT SOMETHING WEIRD VIDEO DID - UNEARTHING GEMS FROM THE PAST AND GIVING THEM NEW LIFE TO A NEW GENERATION. YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE A PASSION FOR SHARING THIS STUFF WITH OTHERS - WHERE DO YOU THINK IT ORIGINATED? IS THERE A MOMENT FROM YOUR LIFE YOU CAN POINT TO THAT STARTED THIS WHOLE ROCK 'N ROLL JOURNEY?

DEBBIE: THAT MOMENT FOR ME WAS WHEN I WAS 4 YEARS OLD. MY DAD BROUGHT A BOX OF 45S DOWN OUT OF THE ATTIC AND PLAYED SURFIN' BIRD BY THE TRASHMEN FOR ME. THAT WAS IT! HOOKED ON 45S. THERE WERE PLENTY OF OTHER KIDS JUST LIKE ME THAT LOVED COLLECTING AND SHARING THESE WEIRD DISCS. AND, YES, I THINK I'VE SEEN ALMOST EVERY SOMETHING WEIRD VIDEO! I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE IN ATHENS, GA. NEAR A COOL VIDEO STORE.

BONUS QUESTION: WHAT IS THE GREATEST APE-CENTRIC HALLOWEEN PARTY-ROCK SONG OF ALL TIME, AND WHY IS IT GO GO GORILLA BY THE SHAN-DELLS? DEBBIE: IT IS HARD TO BEAT GO GO GORILLA!

THANK YOU DEBBIE AND EVERYONE. RUN - DON'T WALK - AND TURN THAT DIAL TO BOSS RADIO 66!!!!

CRISWELL PREDICTS !!!!

(OR, A SPINE - TINGLING INTERVIEW WITH EDWIN LEE CANFIELD....BIOGRAPHER OF THE AMAZING CRISWELL!!!!)

CC: Your new book, Fact, Fictions, and the Forbidden Predictions of the Amazing Criswell is a fantastic read about one of American pop culture's most fascinating people. When did your interest in Criswell start? What is it about him that intrigued you?

Ed: Like most people, I first learned of Criswell from seeing him in *Plan 9 from Outer Space* and then as he was portrayed by Jeffery Jones in Tim Burton's *Ed Wood*. In late 1999 I read one of his books of predictions, *Criswell Predicts from Now to the Year 2000*, and was fascinated by the far-out and outrageous things he said would happen. The dates for the predictions he had assigned dates to, had already passed, like that the world would end on August 18, 1999. I just had to know more about him, like is this guy for real?

CC: While a lot of people may know who Criswell was, he just never seemed like the kind of person you could find much deep information about online or anywhere else. What was the research process like for this book, and about how long did it take to complete?

Ed: It was in the year 2000 that I started researching him and the Internet was just beginning to be a common, everyday thing. There was a couple of online sites that had some basic information on him. I used online searches and sites like findagrave.com to find anyone that had known or knew of him and conducted interviews with them via phone and email. I also found books, photos, etc...on online auctions and used genealogical and newspaper archive sites. My original intention with the research was to write a screenplay for a biopic similar to Tim Burton's *Ed Wood* but over time it evolved into the book which I would work on as life permitted and I found new information about him. During the pandemic I found myself with the time to focus on the project and did more research especially with online newspaper archives which had grown exponentially over the last twenty years. That, and some more interviews, really helped to fill-in Criswell's timeline and story and bring the book to where I felt it was ready for publication.

CC: I love seeing the old clips of Criswell from the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. I enjoy reading his prediction articles that ran in the weekly papers. Of course, I really like his Ed Wood connection and his role in that legacy. So, as someone who has spent a lot of time learning and writing about him – what do YOU think his greatest achievement was? What do you believe HE was most proud of?

Ed: His greatest achievement was the creation and invention of himself. The persona of a celebrity born for greatness, which he stuck to and lived like he was the star he was bound to be. His belief in himself and tenacity in being this larger than life character all the time without apology. He had a pretty good understanding of the persuasiveness of the "cult of celebrity" mentality in the early days of television and mass media. If a celebrity said something with conviction, then it had to be true and accurate and would usually be believed without questioning. He certainly used that to perpetrate the image and myth of the celebrity Criswell.

Bonus question!! The cover art for your book is by Mitch O'Connell. I can't think of another artist who could've captured the vibe better! We recently got him to design the poster for our Bettie Page event here in Tennessee. He was so awesome to work with. Is it safe to say that Mitch truly is, without a doubt, the "World's Best Artist??"

Ed: For this book cover he definitely was the "World's Best Artist." I had been following his work for a while and loved his previous drawings of Criswell along with Ed Wood, Vampira, and the rest of the gang. He was my first choice and agreed to do it saying he couldn't pass up an opportunity to do Criswell. I sent him a few reference photos and very little direction and he nailed it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT SEEN TIM BURTON'S ED WOOD, FIX THAT ASAP. SERIOULSY IT'S THE BEST

THANK YOU MR. CANFIELD! THE NEW BOOK - FACT, FICTIONS, AND THE FORBIDDEN PREDICTIONS OF THE AMAZING CRISWELL - IS AVAILABLE NOW VIA HEADDRESS BOOKS WHEREVER YOU BUY BOOKS!!

INTERVIEW WITH ERIC PIGORS - ARTIST AND CREATOR OF TOXICTOONS!!!

I HAD THE AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT WITH ONE OF MY FAVORITE ARTISTS.

DO YOU DARE READ ON?? IT'S CHILLING, MIND NUMBING, AND FANTASTIC!!!!

CC: Based off of your amazing art creations, especially the ToxicToons, I'm sure it's safe to say you were (and still are) a monster kid! But as far as your "monster roots" go: can you tell us about a moment or specific thing from your past that helped forever shape your interest in creating fun horror themed art? Or was it a combination of things in pop culture that shaped your specific style?

Eric: As a kid I loved all sorts of art: MAD, PLOP comics, Rat Fink, ODD RODS Stickers, Wacky Pacs, Jack Davis "You'll Die Laughing" cards, the Hilarious House of Frightenstein, the Munsters/Addams Family, Halloween season and Frankenstein's monster. Stuff that had humor to it, and monsters I loved! It all just stewed in my head like a witch's cauldron in my youth until one day it became my passion and came out as my TOXICTOONS.

CC: I think it's so cool that you once worked at such studios as Disney and Warner Bros. As an artist, were those jobs fulfilling creatively? What big studio project that you worked on are you most proud of? Was ToxicToons something you worked on and developed during those days or did it come around after?

Eric: Yes - especially Disney, so many great artists I worked with, fun times, hard work. I was happiest there when I was given the opportunity to do development on Treasure Planet. They even used one of my designs and named it PIGORS after me. The rest of the time I did clean up art (the final drawings over the animators roughs you see up on the screen). I also loved working on the character HADES in HERCULES, I even met Gerald Scarfe, a fave artist of mine who drew Pink Floyd's the Wall art - he did character development on it. I worked at Disney 16 years and love visiting one of my last friends who survived the 2nd cut of 95% of the studio in 2002 . I go visit him and love walking around the old Disney animation lot Walt built. Met some of the Disney's 9 Old men (his top animators)too while there. And had ED "BIG DADDY" ROTH visit me for a fun lunch. I also am proud of the designs i did for my friends show ED EDD & EDDY'S HALLOWEEN: Boo Haw Haw. And yes I was always doing Toxictoons - even before these jobs.

CC: You've had Halloween masks made using your characters, had some of the biggest rock stars in the world wear your shirts, had your work displayed on the big and small screen....you've done a lot in your journey so far as an artist. Is there something you haven't done yet with your creations that you'd like to see happen? A dream project perhaps?

Eric: It's funny all you mentioned, I sometimes am surprised where my life has taken me. I never thought as a kid that someday I will have monster masks based off my art, or work in animation and meet some of my favorite artists and musicians. Or even see so many fans wear my shirts or get tattoos of stuff that came out of my head for fun. When I had a heart attack in 2011 I was super scared it might be the end , but I also felt very proud of what I had accomplished. But I am very grateful I have had 12 more years of life so far to do what I Love ....MY ART. My dream project though is a HALLOWEEN SPECIAL I have, and a HISTORY ARTBOOK of my Life I've had laid out for 5 years now.

BONUS QUESTION: Can people who do NOT like Halloween be trusted at all??

Eric: I often wonder why there are people who don't like music, art or Halloween. Trust them? *I just feel sorry for them.*

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! **UNKLE PIGORS**

be sure to check out the TOXICTOONS.COM website and @toxictoons on instagram

TOTALLY FREE HALLOWEEN DECOR COURTESY OF CULTURE CRINGE !!!

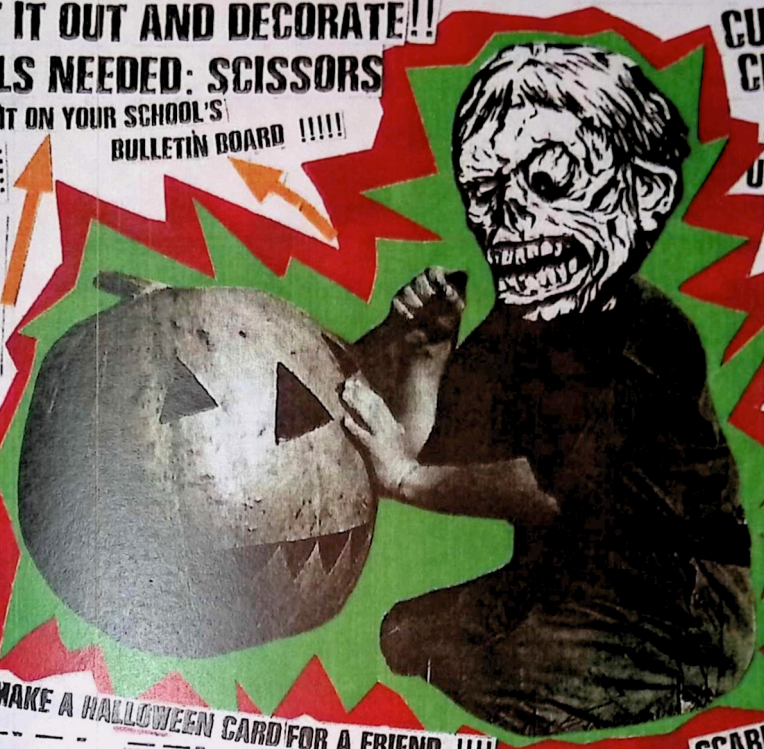
CUT IT OUT AND DECORATE!!

TOOLS NEEDED: SCISSORS

PUT IT ON YOUR SCHOOL'S BULLETIN BOARD !!!!!

HANG IT IN YOUR LOCKER !! TAPE IT TO YOUR MOM'S CAR WINDOW !!!!!

PRO TIP: USE A COPIER AND MAKE SEVERAL. THAT WAY YOU WON'T MESS UP YOUR ZINE!!!



MAKE A HALLOWEEN CARD FOR A FRIEND !!!!

SCARE YOUR NEIGHBORS !!!!!

THE CURIOUS CASE OF ROBERT HOWELL, NASHVILLE PUBLIC TV, AND "TOOT"

Every few years the video clip of former addict Robert Howell makes the rounds on the social medias...and it appears it has struck again! The clip in question comes from the 1980s Nashville cable access TV show *The Sylvan Brothers Comedy Hour* in which comedians Shane Caldwell and Howard Fox play out an interview on the fictitious show *HEALTH FORUM*. I am not going to describe the clip, that's up to you to find it. . .maybe try "Robert Howell toot" in your Youtube search. BUT, I did just realize that the guys behind the *Sylvan Brothers* show also produced a sketch comedy show in the 90s that appeared on late-night Nashville television. It was called *Cuts* and once I started reading about it, I totally remembered it. Caldwell was known for doing impressions of such Nashville celebrities as *Jerry Clower, Whisperin' Bill Anderson,* and *Otis* from the *Andy Griffith Show.* (editor's note: in case you can't tell, I recently discovered how to make certain text in my zine *appear in italics* .... like I said before, it's a *new version of me* around here!). One thing that makes the comedy of Howell and Fox special around Nashville is how their sketches went "viral" (before that was even a thing) mainly because of the fans who worked on Music Row - they made audio and video tapes of the best clips and passed them around town. I have a very distinct memory of being around 12 years old and my uncle (who worked on the 'row) played the whole family an audio tape of the Robert Howell skit. I laughed along although I honestly had no idea what "toot" was, I just thought the word was funny. ***And quite honestly, I still do.*** —CRINGEY 2023

THE NASHVILLE BEAT

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS A FUTURE ISSUE OF CULTURE CRINGE! IT'S LIKE

LIKE INVESTING IN A GHOUL MINE!

THE POD-CAST CORNER

HEY! Have you heard about all Cure themed podcast called THE HOL HOUR?? WELL LEMME TELL YA it's a bi-weekly podcast devoted to one of the greatest bands of all time....*THE CURE*!! It truly is the pod-cast equivalent of an old school fan-zine that someone would have made back in the day showcasing their fave band. Host Gavin does an amazing job consistently coming up with content - it never EVER disappoints! SO WITH ALL THAT BEING SAID, I am super super duper stoked to present to you an exclusive...Gavin has prepared for YOU, the reader, the ultimate *CURE HALLOWEEN PLAYLIST*!! So yeah let's say you're having a festive Halloween shin-dig and need to set the mood.....well here ya go. Thanks so much Gavin for doing this!!!

mission / incoming transmission / incoming transmission / incoming transmission / inc

GAVIN: ALRIGHT....LIKE EVERY CURE PLAYLIST IT CHANGES DAILY....BUT HERE'S MY CURRENT "ULTIMATE SPOOKY CURE MIX 2023" TRACK LISTING:

1) BURN 2) CHARLOTTE SOMETIMES 3) A FEAR OF GHOSTS 4) LULLABY 5) KYOTO SONG 6) A STRANGE DAY 7) OTHER VOICES 8) COLD 9) LAMENT 10) ONE HUNDRED YEARS 11) AT NIGHT 12) HANGING GARDEN 13) THE DROWNING MAN 14) THREE IMAGINARY BOYS 16) SUBWAY SONG 17) A FOREST transmission / end transmission / end transm

thanks so much Gavin — everyone go check out the podcast!!

thanks for picking up this edition of CULTURE CRINGE! as always you can reach out at culturecringemedia@gmail.com or follow on instagram at @culturecringe. newt up is the winter issue.....will it be a double ~~isse~~-issue as well?? WELL I IMAGINE SO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!